

**Northwest Louisiana Community Tennis Association (NWLACTA)  
Minutes from October 2, 2024, Board Meeting**

**Call to Order-** Brian Bernard

**Attendance** – Board members: Brian Bernard, Rhonda Rubben, Ashley Price, Dede Plette, Grady Wilson, Kathrine Arterberry, Michael Pereira, Philip Campbell. Others: Cotter Wilson, Rodric Arterberry, Kaye Cochran, Hassan Abbas, Bob Patterson, Jeff Smith, Bill Phillips.

September minutes were approved. Motion by Grady Wilson second Rhonda Rubben

**Executive Board Reports:**

**President Report** Rhonda Rubben

- LTA Awards 2024 – 17 Awards - Shreveport/Bossier – Received 6
  - CTA Chapter of the Year - NWLACTA
  - Education Merit Program of the Year – NWLACTA NJTL chapter
  - Jr Tournament of Year - Independence Bowl - POTC
  - Member Organization of Year - SALT
  - Diversity/Inclusion Champion - Ken and Marilyn Meyers, Cockrell Tennis Center
  - Team Tennis Event of the Year - 70 Tournament - NWLACTA/Bossier Tennis Center
- Hall of Fame
  - Phillip Campbell

**Treasurer's Report** Rhonda Rubben

September 2024

- Assets: \$252,712, including \$ 174,117 cash (\$16,629 restricted), \$ 78,595 Merrill Lynch.
- Liabilities: \$1,899, credit card
- Total income: \$8,691, includes \$1116 league, \$2850 TA, \$2224 Querbes, \$420 Love Twice, \$661 Investment income.
- Total expenses: \$16306, including \$9540 QTC, \$4054 AL Coordinator Fees, and \$550 NJTL Training expenses to date.
  - Preparing the budget for 2025, if there is anything any of the facilities need to add, alter or do differently let Rhonda know ASAP.
  - Will have three state tournaments again next year and a bid was submitted for one sectionals tournament in July 2025. Both POTC and BTC said yes to the dates.
  - Balance Sheet and P & L by MTH YTD available for review.

**USTA/LTA/STA Reports:** Jay Boyd/Grady Wilson/Phillip Campbell/Bill Phillips

- STA/USTA/Louisiana Tennis Association Updates - Bill Phillips
  - Congratulations on the LTA awards received in 2024
  - Congratulate us on having past and present president representing Northwest.

- Discussion on the name change amongst pros USPTA to RSPA, most not in favor of change and pickleball receiving the majority due to its growth, seeming to neglect tennis and its growth.
- Bill Phillips attended the Palm Springs conference 3 weeks ago. Where a professional speaker presented a slideshow about the companies that refused to evolve and went out of business (blockbuster for example). Then a slideshow of our logos since 1927. Now the new logo RSPA Racquet Sports Professional Association with a tennis ball, pickleball and paddle ball. Spoke to the Vice President and he admitted they didn't poll the membership like they claim. Our efforts as tennis professionals have always been to grow the sport of Tennis, not all racket sports.

**NJTL/Outreach Report** – Rhonda Rubben

- USTA Foundation Grant
  - Fall Outreach Programs
    - SALT Broadmoor and VOA Bossier programs on Thursdays 3:45-5
    - Adaptive programs beginning Tuesdays in October
    - Fall break – Cockrell doing a fall break camp Tues-Thurs
    - Katherine and Rodric are going to Orlando to attend the NJTL conference
    - October 28th an Adaptive Program scheduled for Benton and Bossier High Schools at BTC.

**Public and Private Facilities– PRO UPDATES**

**Bossier**

- BLT and JD are going well
- Holding two tournaments this weekend for Provenance and Women's Collegiate

**POTC**

- Labor Day mixer followed by BBQ 76 people
- Annual St Jude 246 players. 47 pickleball players. Largest events and first time with pickleball.
- POTC and Eastridge Club Championship. 98 players across 30 divisions over 100 matches
- Friday, October 18 a mixer for The Love of Medicine – 5<sup>th</sup> year for this tournament.
- Oct 19th junior circuit. 10u yellow orange and green. Grand Prix for yellow and green. Winner with most points will attend a clinic in Georgia with all the other top finishers
- SETT tournament October 24-27th
- Natalie Sin qualified as the top 3 player to compete in Ozaki cup and Louisiana came 6th overall in that event

**Querbes:**

- Tennis Apprentice going very well. Filled both classes and added an additional starting October 10th.
- Tennis Fest pregame this Saturday 9:30-11:30
- October 19th Tennis Fest Cardio Play Day
- October 28th Querbes kids starts. 25-30 kids in the first section
- Winter league beginning in November. Working with bossier to make sure teams of same level don't play on the same day that bossier is playing.
- Planning a USTA Workshop for beginners to help anyone who is a volunteer or a part timer or high school kid.

## **Natchitoches**

- USTA high school tournament completed with 28 players on September 28th. Evangel took first place
- October 7th Tennis Apprentice and JD Programs begin
- October 19th USTA level 7
- USTA Junior Grand Prix 10U October 26th
- Northwestern Demon Tennis Classic first weekend in October

## **Cockrell**

- Halfway through Tennis Apprentice
- They have 4 USTA Combo Teams this fall
- Tennis Fest October 10th
- Began an adult red ball pilot. Jeff Smith attended
- Fall break camp for NJTL kids in October

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Adult**

### **Community Partner/Fundraising**

### **Marketing**

### **State Tournaments**

### **Awards**

### **Grants**

### **Outreach & Special Programs/Grants**

### **Volunteer/Hospitality Committee**

### **CTA Tournament**

### **Junior Tennis**

- Will begin working on the calendar soon so if there are any major changes to let her know. There are some big potential changes with league and time frames so she wants to get the calendar up and working. She will send out an email.
- Dede did an amazing job on the LTA awards. Couldn't have done it without her.

## **Junior Tennis**

- Junior Middle School League - FALL 2024 – Started last week
  - 71 players
  - 5 14u green teams and 5 14u yellow teams
  - 10/13 and 10/20 please come if you can
  - State opportunity in May for the top 2 teams
- Junior Team Tennis
  - Promotion beginning for November 2/3 1 day/weekend event
    - Host facility will be POTC
    - This is by age and not by school with a state opportunity in June

## **Coordinators' Reports-Community Coordinators**

### **Tennis Apprentice –**

- Querbes and Cockrell are in process
- Natchitoches - starts in Oct.

### **Community Partner**

- Will be starting our Community Partner and gearing up for our tournament next year so if anybody wants to work on that please let us know

Facebook – have 1986 followers on Facebook, 254 Instagram – current goal is 2000 by Christmas

- Go to NWLACTA page - Scroll Down - See Community - INVITE FRIENDS.

- On Facebook when you see NWLTACTA Post please **Comment, like and share.**

**Other New Business:**

- Budget -
  - If anybody thinks of anything new that we will be working on with juniors or additional programs, please let Rhonda know so she can add to the budget.
  - If any facilities have any need, please let us know. Especially as it pertains to league.

Bill Phillips - Discussion on older levels playing on clay courts.

- 65 and older should be on clay courts. Brian said it should be 50+. North La could offer clay as we have private and public courts willing to host. Lafayette also has this option, but Baton Rouge does not. These are our 3 largest venues in the state.
- Rhonda would have bid on the 55+ sectionals tournament for 2026-27 except they wanted 5 days.
- Bill Phillips - the time of year must be considered when areas place bids.
- 70+ is non-sanctioned and multi state. There is a talk about a point system so at the end there is a championship for them.

Grady -

- Thanked Bill for attending the meeting and congratulated him on a great job statewide
  - 6% ahead of leagues statewide and Juniors 37% ahead
  - The only thing a little behind 3% down on junior tournaments but still have several left to play.
- Bill Phillips – Section wide numbers down 8% but Marty said it was fully expected. Other sections are looking at this model and potentially even nationally. Mixed going to straight levels.
- Grady – LTA is in the strongest financial position they've been. We're stronger than we've ever been under Bill's leadership

The meeting was adjourned. Motion Rhonda Rubben. Grady Wilson second

Respectfully submitted,  
Ashley Price, Secretary